

Jersey:

The German Occupation of the Channel Islands



The Channel Islands were occupied by Nazi Germany for much of World War II: from 30 June 1940 until the liberation on 9 May 1945. On this trip we explore the Bailiwick of Jersey - a British Crown dependency in the English Channel near the coast of Normandy. The Channel Islands were the only part of the British Isles to be invaded and occupied by German forces during the war. The Occupation tale is an extraordinary one of much resistance and some collaboration. It also gives a fascinating insight into how the forces of the Third Reich would have behaved in mainland Britain.

Day One:

Guests are met by MHT at Jersey airport at 09:00 before transferring by private transport to our hotel near St Helier. After our initial trip briefing covering the background to the history of the islands we discuss the plan of action for our next four days. We then go on a walking tour of St Helier to take in the Second World War sites including various memorials such as the Victory V and SS Vega Memorials and the Monument to Freedom. After lunch at the former German Naval Headquarters we continue our walk before heading back to our hotel via the moving Allied War Cemetery.

Day Two:

A packed day of exploration. Our private transport takes us to the First World War Prisoner of War Camp where we explain the direct connection to a central figure in the Occupation story. We then move on to the Batterie Lothringen to explore the observation

tower and bunkers before visiting the mortar bunker at Corbiere. We then move on to the former German Military Cemetery at the Church at St Brelade Bay. After a lunch at a beach-side location we head to the fascinating Military Museum housed in a German Bunker and home to a wonderful collection of weapons, photographs and personal accounts of the occupation, from both sides. We end our day by visiting the the Moltke Battery and observation tower at Les Landes.

Day Three:

The Channel Islands were part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall Defences and on this last morning we consider what the Allies did about penetrating the defences in general and on Jersey in particular: Commando Raids. We visit the raid area and memorial to the men in the more isolated and rural northern part of the island. We then head to the capital, St Helier, where guests have time to explore and go for lunch at one of the many fine venues and perhaps visit the Occupation Tapestry Memorial or maybe the Maritime or Jersey Museum. After lunch we visit the famous German Underground Hospital which now houses the Occupation Museum and the surrounding trench system and defences in the hills above. Perhaps have a Jersey cream tea at the Underground Hospital cafe where our final discussion concludes what is a very memorable trip back in time to explore the German Occupation of the Channel Islands before we return to the hotel to collect bags then head to the airport or maybe extend your stay in Jersey.

What's included:

Hotel Bed & Breakfast Accommodation

All transport from the official overseas start point

Accompanied for the trip duration

All Museum entrances

All Expert Talks and Guidance

Low Group Numbers

Low Single Room Supplements

"I just wanted to thank you for the trip, it was a great experience & both Nicky and I enjoyed it very much. Your depth of knowledge on the subject certainly brought the past alive."

Military History Tours

is all about the 'experience'. Naturally we take care of all local accommodation, transport and entrances but what sets us aside is our on the ground knowledge and contacts, established over many, many years that enable you to really get under the surface of your chosen subject matter.

By guiding guests around these historic locations we feel we are contributing greatly towards 'keeping the spirit alive' of some of the most memorable events in human history.

Let their sacrifice not be in vain.